

Green Shape Standard

Recognition of third-party standards and certification systems in the Green Shape Standard by the program owner Green Shape e.V.

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1. Basics of the recognition of other standards in the Green Shape Standard / Meta-Siegel approach

The production of clothing and textile outdoor products is complex; the multi-level and globally widely branched supply chains often harbor confusing environmental and consumer protection risks.

In order to achieve a high degree of certainty to contain these risks, to create transparency and at the same time to reduce multiple reviews of the same facts at suppliers at different stages of the value chain by different actors and the associated effort and costs, the Green Shape Standard contains a procedure for the recognition of third-party standards for defined requirements.

This pragmatic approach rewards proven environmental and consumer protection efforts by suppliers in the selection and manufacture of materials and end products. Companies seeking certification according to the Green Shape Standard can have these services of their suppliers taken into account as test evidence in the certification process.

The purpose of the recognition of third-party standards in the Green Shape Standard is not to provide information to end consumers, but to ensure environmental, consumer protection and animal welfare in the value creation stages of the upstream supply chains. For recognition as a third-party standard or certification system in the Green Shape Standard, it is therefore not relevant that end products are marked with a seal of the third-party standard. Certification according to the Green Shape Standard does not include the right to label products with third-party seals.

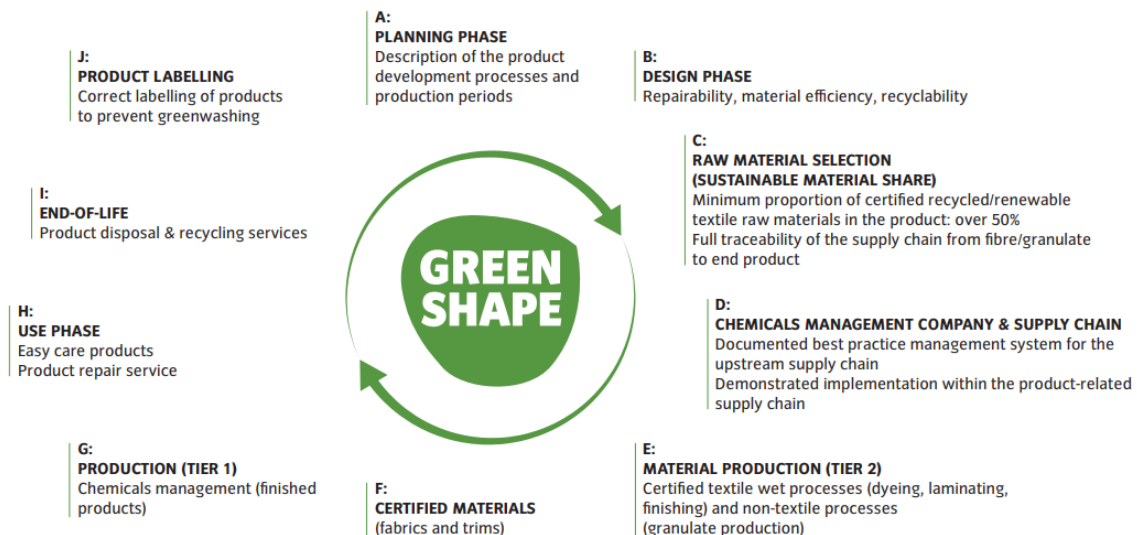
Recognition of these standards is based on clearly defined, non-discriminatory criteria and procedural instructions in accordance with this document by the program owner.

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Requirements for Green Shape® Products



The right of reciprocal use is made separately by the Program Owner and the Third Party Standard if necessary.

2. Procedural Instructions for the Recognition of Third Party Standards by the Program Owner

2.1. Scope of application

This Procedure Instruction bindingly describes the process for the recognition of third-party standards that can be used to meet individual requirements for materials and/or manufacturing processes used within the Green Shape Standard (described in detail in **Applicable Document 01**).

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The aim of the recognition process is to ensure that the corresponding third-party standards comply with minimum requirements for environmental and consumer protection aspects.

This process description applies to:

- all third-party standards that are either actively applying for recognition or are already being proactively recognized by Green Shape e.V.
- the actors of Green Shape e.V. as programme owners,
- external persons who contribute to the recognition of third-party standards on the basis of their professional expertise.

2.2. Normative references

- Green Shape Certification Program GS 3.1, Chapter 3.3
- Co-applicable document "GS3.1 mgD 01 Requirements for products and test evidence"
- DIN EN ISO/IEC 17065:2013
- Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2023/2683 (SUPD)¹
- ISO/DIS 136622

2.3. Occasion

Reasons for the application of this procedure for the recognition of third-party standards may be regularly conducted reviews of the Green Shape Standard (in accordance with certification program) or between these reviews if necessary:

- Initiation by the program owner due to further developments in the market,
- Application for a third-party standard (informal),

¹ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ%3AL_202302683

² <https://www.dinmedia.de/de/norm-entwurf/iso-dis-13662/389396866>

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- version changes of already recognized third-party standards,
- complaints or notices.

2.4. Deadlines

The Programme Owner shall process any procedure for the recognition of third-party standards within a maximum of six months after the occasion becomes known.

If the decision is positive, the program owner updates the product requirements and test certificates within four weeks in an updated version of the **Applicable Document 01** and publishes this on its website.

2.5. Technical assessment of third-party standards / "benchmarking"

The professional assessment of third-party standards is carried out against the requirements of the Green Shape Standard in the applicable version.

The following will be evaluated:

- the specific content coverage of the respective specific requirements of the Green Shape Standard ("mapping") and the resulting scope of recognition (e.g. scope / supply chain stages / processes / materials)
- whether a third-party standard is recognized in its entirety or only in parts of the specific requirements of the Green Shape Standard,
- the binding nature and verification of the requirements of the third-party standard for the certified suppliers,

Interested parties are included in the certification program in accordance with the specifications for the review process of the Green Shape Standard.

The results of the recognition decision are documented in a recognition report.

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2.6. Monitoring, versioning and re-evaluation

Green Shape e.V. as the program owner maintains a binding overview of all recognized third-party standards, which contains at least the following information (see **Chapter 5**):

- Name of the recognized standard
- Version number / revision status
- Release date of the version, if any.
- Scope of recognition (e.g. scope / supply chain stages / processes / materials)
- Assignment to Requirements (No. of (ID) in Green Shape Standard
- Description of recognized test certificates per requirement in the Green Shape Standard

Owners of third-party standards are requested to inform Green Shape e.V. as the program owner immediately about changes, revisions or new versions of their recognized standard. In addition, Green Shape e.V., as the owner of the programme, ensures that the revision levels of recognised third-party standards are monitored.

Recognitions of upstream standards are unlimited in time, but limited to the respective recognized version.

Changes are assessed by the program owner with regard to their materiality. Significant changes are made in particular in the following areas:

- Adjustments to content requirements,
- Changes in the determination methodology or depth of examination,
- Changes to the governance or certification structure.

In these cases, the affected third-party standards are re-evaluated on an ad hoc basis. Until the reassessment is completed, the following may:

- either the previously approved version continues to apply for a limited period of time, or
- the recognition may be suspended in whole or in part if there are risks to the integrity of the Green Shape Standard.

Non-material (editorial) changes can be recognized without full rebenchmarking, provided that the equivalence of content is maintained.

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2.7. Application in the certification process

Certification bodies consider recognized third-party standards in the defined scope of recognition as test evidence. Details can be found in the **Certification Program, Chapter 3.3.** as well as in the **Co-Applicable Document 01**.

3. Credibility and governance requirements for third-party standards

Third-party standards must comply with the ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Sustainability Systems (<https://www.isealalliance.org/get-involved/resources/iseal-code-good-practice-sustainability-systems-v10>) and/or be accredited.

For the detection of bio-based raw materials, the Green Shape Standard recognises test certificates that are based on recognised standard procedures (e.g. C14 method) and have been prepared by laboratories accredited according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025.

4. Professional criteria for third-party standards

This chapter specifies minimum technical requirements as well as environmental, consumer protection and animal welfare aspects that must meet third-party standards in order to be recognized for the Green Shape Standard.

4.1. Phase C – Sustainable Material Content Share

Third-party standards whose certificate includes proof that the processed raw materials (feedstock) consist of recycled or bio-based (from biomass and/or renewable raw materials) feedstock can be recognized in the Green Shape Standard under the following conditions for the raw material categories defined below.

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4.2. Proportion of recycled raw materials (fibre/granule level) (ID 11a)

- Third-party standards for textile materials and plastics based on chain of custody procedures (except book and claim) can be recognised,
- provided that they certify recycled raw materials from pre- or post-consumer recycling, identity preserve, segregated or mass balance methods at fiber/granule level (Tier 4).
- For mass-balanced recycled raw materials, third-party standards can be recognized that ensure proof of the amount of raw material fed into the mass balance method at fiber/granule level (Tier 4).

4.3. Share of renewable raw materials (fibre/granule level) (ID 11b)

- Third-party standards for textile materials and plastics can be recognised on the basis of the chain of custody procedures specified below (except for book and claim),
- provided that they certify renewable and/or biogenic raw materials at fibre/granule level (Tier 4).
- Details for specific material categories are specified below.

4.3.1. Organic cotton (ID 11b-1)

- Chain of custody procedures (Identity Preserve or Segregated) can be recognized for demonstrably certified organic cotton,

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- provided that they ensure that organic fibres from controlled organic cultivation are used,
- and no synthetic pesticides and genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are used.
- Mass Balance processes are not recognized for animal raw materials and natural fibers.

4.3.2. Hemp (ID 11b-2)

No third-party standards are currently recognized for hemp.

4.3.3. Lyocell (ID 11b-3)

- Chain of custody procedures (mass balancing, identity preserve or segregated) can be recognised,
- provided that they ensure that wood-based raw materials such as cellulose regenerated fibres come from responsible forestry.

4.3.4. Wool (ID 11b-4)

- Chain of custody procedures (Identity Preserve or Segregated) can be recognised,
- provided that they ensure that only mulesing-free wool obtained in accordance with animal welfare standards is processed.
- Mass Balance processes are not recognized for animal raw materials and natural fibers.

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4.3.5. Daune (ID 11b-5)

- Chain of custody procedures (Identity Preserve or Segregated) can be recognised,
- provided that they ensure that only down that is suitable for animal welfare and has been obtained without live plucking and foie gras production,
- or certified recycled down.
- Mass Balance processes are not recognized for animal raw materials and natural fibers.

4.3.6. Bio-based plastics from biogenic raw materials (ID 11b-6)

- For this material, test methods, standards and norms are recognized that analyze the "Biogenic Carbon Content" (BCC) according to the C14 test method, which excludes the possibility that fossil feedstocks are used.

4.3.7. Bio-based Plastics (Mass Balance) (ID 11b-7)

- Chain of Custody Standards/certification systems can be recognized for mass-balanced raw materials,
- provided that they ensure a verifiable mass balance with complete quantity management (input/output, stocks, conversion factors and losses) at least at fibre or granulate level (Tier 4), exclude double counting and provide for independent verification of data and verification.

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The relevant principles are (i) the principles for calculation, verification and reporting in accordance with Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2023/2683 (SUPD)³ and (ii) the requirements and guidelines of ISO/DIS 13662 Supply Chain Traceability - Mass Accounting - Requirements and Guidelines⁴.

4.4.Phase D – Chemicals Management (ID 12)

The responsible handling of chemical substances, some of which are potentially hazardous, is a core element of more environmentally friendly textile production. Over the past 15 years or so, two standards have been established that are firmly anchored in the Green Shape Standard as current best practices:

- The bluesign® standard⁵ as a chemical input management system with the **bluesign® Restricted Substance List (RSL)** as the benchmark for consumer protection in the end product;
- The Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals ZDHC⁶ as a global, independent, multi-stakeholder initiative with the **ZDHC Manufacturing Restricted Substance List (MRSL)** as a benchmark for science-based exclusion of hazardous chemicals from manufacturing processes;
- in each case in the currently approved version in accordance with **Chapter 5** of this document.

In addition, other standards for chemical management can be recognized in the Green Shape Standard,

³ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ%3AL_202302683

⁴ <https://www.dinmedia.de/de/norm-entwurf/iso-dis-13662/389396866>

⁵ <https://www.bluesign.com/>

⁶ <https://www.zdhc.org/>

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- provided that they have comprehensive chemical management, esp. for textile wet processes at company / factory level (Tier 2) as well as for end products,
- include at least one input stream management including an evaluation of all chemicals used, the requirements of which go beyond the legal requirements and reach at least the level of ambition of bluesign® and ZDHC.

4.5.Phase E – Material production / refinement

- Standards that cover comprehensive environmental management of their textile wet processes (Tier 2) or their manufacturing processes for plastic granules (Tier 3) at factory level can be recognised,
- provided that these include at least the environmental aspects of chemical use, water, wastewater, waste, exhaust air and energy management.

4.6.Phase F – Materials (Fabrics and Trims)

- Standards that ensure that the substances and ingredients used have been verifiably produced in a factory with certified environmental management in accordance with Phase E (Tier 2 / Tier 3) specifications can be recognised.
- Furthermore, standards can be recognized that ensure that at least the requirements of the Oekotex100 standard are met; this only applies in cases where materials are not certifiable by one of the aforementioned standards (Phase D) because they are not covered by this standard and therefore cannot be certified.

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4.7.Phase G – Production (Tier 1)

For the recognition of third-party standards for chemical management in the manufacture of finished products (Tier 1), the requirements defined in Phase D apply.

5. Overview of all third-party standards currently recognized for the Green Shape Standard (Appendix)

The following is a list of all third-party standards that have already been recognized in accordance with the procedure described in this document.

Overview of all currently recognized third-party standards for the Green Shape Standard GS3.1 (mgD 05, Chapter 5)

Name of the third-party standard; Standard owner	Website	Version	Posted on	Recognition for Requirement No. (Phase, ID)	Scope of recognition within GS	Chain of Custody yes / no	Scope of the audit / contents / stages of the value chain	Description of recognized test evidence
Global Recycled Standard (GRS), Textile Exchange	https://textileexchange.org/app/uploads/2021/02/Global-Recycled-Standard-v4.0.pdf	4.0	01.07.2017	Phase C: (ID 11a), (ID 11b-5) Phase E:(ID 15); Phase F:(ID 17)	complete	and	Chain of Custody Standard for recycled raw materials/fibres/materials including defined ecological criteria along the supply chain	Valid GRS Scope certificate with a list of the exact material composition
Recycled Claim Standard (RCS), Textile Exchange	https://textileexchange.org/app/uploads/2021/02/Recycled-Claim-Standard-v2.0.pdf	2.0	01.07.2017	Phase C:(ID 11a)	complete	and	Chain of Custody Standard for Recycled Raw Materials/Fibers/Materials	Valid RCS Scope certificate (at least fiber/granule level; further levels if necessary) with a list of the exact material composition as proof of recycled feedstock.
ISCC PLUS (International Sustainability and Carbon Certification)	https://www.iscc-system.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/ISCC-PLUS_v3.4.2.pdf	ISCC PLUS System Document v3.4.2	06.03.2024	Phase C:(ID 11a); (ID 11b-7)	complete	and	Mass-Balance/Chain-of-Custody Proof of recycled or bio-based feedstocks (e.g. plastics) as part of raw material certification	Valid ISCC-PLUS certificate (incl. scope) as proof of injected and allocated quantities in the mass balance system.
RSB Standard for Advanced Products (Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials)	https://rsb.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/rsb-std-02-001-v2.0_rsb-standard-for-advanced-products.pdf	2.0	07.12.2018	Phase C:(ID 11a); (ID 11b-6)	complete	and	Proof of sustainable, (bio)based or recycled feedstocks and chain-of-custody (including options to determine the bio-based (carbon) content).	Valid RSB certificate/standard proof according to Advanced Products Standard as recognition for Mass Balance/Scope
Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS); Global Standard gemeinnützige GmbH	https://global-standard.org/images/resource-library/documents/standard-and-manual/GOTS_7.0__SIGNED_.pdf	7.0	March 2023	Phase C:(ID 11b-1); (ID 11b-4) Phase E:(ID 15) Phase F:(ID 17), (ID 18)	complete	and	Chain of Custody textile processing standard for organic raw materials/fibres/materials, including defined social and environmental criteria along the supply chain	Valid GOTS Scope certificate with list of the exact material composition (Label Grade)

Organic Content Standard (OCS) – Textile Exchange	https://textileexchange.org/app/uploads/2021/02/OCS-101-V3.0-Organic-Content-Standard.pdf	3.0	01.03.2020	Phase C:(ID 11b-1), (ID 11b-4)	complete	and	Chain-of-custody standard for verifying the organic content (e.g. organic cotton/organic wool) in materials along the supply chain.	Valid OCS Scope certificate (at least fibre level; if necessary also yarn/fabric level) with a list of the exact material composition as proof of the organic content.
Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®), Forest Stewardship Council	https://connect.fsc.org/document-centre	3-1	02.02.2021	Phase C:(ID 11b-3)	complete	and	Chain-of-custody standard for forest-based materials (e.g. wood/cellulose fibres) – proof of sourcing, processing, labelling and sale as FSC-certified.	Valid FSC (FSC, FSC Mix, FSC Recycled) CoC certificate (incl. scope) as proof of certified forest-based raw materials/materials in the production period.
Responsible Wool Standard (RWS) – Textile Exchange	https://textileexchange.org/app/uploads/2020/08/RAF-101a-V2.2-Responsible-Wool-Standard.pdf	2.2	01.10.2021	Phase C:(ID 11b-4)	complete	and	Chain of Custody Standard including animal welfare and land management criteria for wool	Valid RWS Scope certificate (at least fiber level; if necessary also yarn/fabric level) with a list of the exact material composition as proof of responsible wool
Responsible Down Standard (RDS) – Textile Exchange	https://textileexchange.org/app/uploads/2021/02/RDS-101-V3.0-2019.07.01.pdf	3.0	01.07.2019	Phase C:(ID 11b-5)	complete	and	Chain of Custody Standard including animal welfare criteria – proof of new (non-recycled) down.	Valid RDS Scope certificate (min. At material level, if necessary at product level) as proof of animal-welfare down during the production period.
CEN/TS 16295:2012 / DIN SPEC 16452:2012-04	DIN CEN/TS 16295 - 2012-04 - DIN Media	2012-04	15.02.2012	Phase C:(ID 11b-6)	complete	No	Technical specification for the declaration of the bio-based carbon content in plastics/polymers.	Test report/certificate for the determination and declaration of the bio-based carbon content according to CEN/TS 16295 / DIN SPEC 16452:2012-04 .

EN 16785	https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/cen/93afa21f-4746-4e5b-878f-b6cbc951d95d/en-16785-1-2015		15.12.2015	Phase C:(ID 11b-6)	complete	No	Bio-based products – Determination of the bio-based content by radiocarbon and elemental analysis.	Test report according to EN 16785-1 for the determination of the bio-based content (radiocarbon + elemental analysis).
ASTM D6866	https://store.astm.org/d6866-24.html	D6866-24	01.01.2025	Phase C:(ID 11b-6)	complete	No	Test method for the determination of the bio-based carbon content in solids/liquids/gases via radiocarbon analysis.	Test report according to ASTM D6866 (radiocarbon analysis) to determine the bio-based carbon content.
ISO 16620 (Serie) – Plastics — Biobased content	ISO 16620-1 - 2015-04 - DIN Media ISO 16620-4 - 2024-02 - DIN Media	ISO 16620-1:2015; ISO 16620-4:2024	04-2015 / 02-2024	Phase C:(ID 11b-6)	complete	No	Series of standards on bio-based content in plastics (principles, determination of bio-based mass/carbon).	Test report/certificate according to ISO 16620 (depending on the sub-standard) for the determination/declaration of the bio-based content.
Bluesign® Standard, bluesign technologies Ag	bluesign Clean Inputs & Responsible Production ; https://www.bluesign.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/RSL-v15.0.pdf	Version 3.0	2020-03	Phase D:(ID 12), (ID 13) Phase E:(ID 15) Phase F:(ID 17), (ID 18) Phase G:(ID 19)	complete	No	Textile processing standard for the production of materials according to defined resource-saving processes and in compliance with defined pollutant limits	Valid Bluesign System Partner Certificate; Listing of the material / article number in the Bluesign database; RSL
Oeko-Tex Standard 100, International Association for Research and Testing® in the Field of Textile and Lederökologie https://www.oeko-tex.com/de/unsere-standards/oeko-tex-standard-100/	Edition 01.2023			Phase E:(ID 18)	complete	no	Pollutant tests with defined limit values guarantee textiles tested for harmful substances	Oeko-Tex® Standard 100 certificate for defined material composition

Oeko-Tex® Made in Green, International Association for Research and Testing in the Field of Textile and Leather Ecology	https://www.oeko-tex.com/de/unsere-standards/oeko-tex-made-in-green	Edition 01.2025	01.04.2025	Phase E:(ID 17)	complete	(yes; Target regulation, no transaction certificates)	Certification of the end product according to Oeko-Tex® 100; Certification of all clothing companies according to Oeko-Tex® SteP; Certification of all product components over 5% by weight according to Oeko-Tex® SteP; Supply Chain Visibility	Oeko-Tex Made in Green certificate® for defined material composition
ZDHC MRSL	https://mrsl-30.roadmaptozero.com/changelog			Phase D:(ID 12), (ID 13) Phase G:(ID 19)				MRSL
ZDHC Wastewater Guidelines	https://downloads.roadmaptozero.com/output/ZDHC-Wastewater-Guidelines			Phase D:(ID 12), (ID 13) Phase G:(ID 19)				Signed contract with Tier 2 suppliers containing the MRSL